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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S INTRODUCTORY MEETING WITH PM MARTIN

Classified By: Ambassador David H. Wilkins, reasons 1.4 (b) (d)

11. (U) Ambassador Wilkins paid an introductory call on PM Martin June 30 in the Prime Minister's Office at Parliament. The tone of the meeting was friendly and allowed time for a cordial exchange on family and political careers, of note sharing experiences operating in a political minority situation.

12. The following issues of policy substance were discussed:

-- (C) Devils Lake: The first issue the PM raised, and in the strongest terms, mirrored many of our discussions on Devils Lake over the past two years, as he repeated inaccuracies and half-truths. The PM said that this would be the first time that an IJC reference has been refused, and stated as fact the contention that the completion of the project would allow invasive species into the watershed. The Ambassador politely corrected him on the IJC reference and said that the White House, through the CEQ, was fully engaged and seeking to satisfy Canada's concerns on the project. The Prime Minister said the bottom line was that Canada sought an IJC reference, to which the Ambassador responded that perhaps a solution should be the most important thing. The PM agreed, reluctantly.

-- (C) BSE/Softwood: The PM lumped our two biggest trade disputes together. He said he believes President Bush has a correct understanding of the competition emanating from China and India, which necessitates a full integration of the North American market in response. He believes the Administration understands the changing global economy, and genuinely wants to resolve these disputes. In the absence of a solution, however, the PM said Canada is simply developing its own competitive edge in these industries, backing away from the integrated North American market which it cannot trust. The U.S., he suggested, will lose out in the end.

-- (SBU) SPP/Avian Flu: The Ambassador expressed appreciation for the PM's attendance at the recent luncheon for Secretaries Chertoff and Gutierrez, and the personal

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attention the PM has paid to progress on the SPP. In this context, Martin raised Avian Flu. The PM mentioned that he discussed Avian Flu in a conversation with Secretary Chertoff on June 27 at the SPP meeting. Canadian officials have a real concern that this disease could develop into a pandemic in the next year, they will push for a sidebar meeting at the UNGA in the fall with 15-20 countries to discuss it. Foreign Policy Advisor Jonathan Fried said that Canada would also be very supportive of an important meeting in July in the U.S. to seek new approaches to pandemic. The PM mentioned the new Canadian public health center completed in Winnipeg and modeled after the US Centers for Disease Control as being helpful in the fight to stop such diseases.

-- (C) Hemispheric Engagement: The PM told the Ambassador that he believes Canada can be more helpful on Latin America, especially where there may be reluctance to accept wholesale U.S. influence. He mentioned Venezuela as an example where Canadian engagement might be positive. On Haiti, the PM also said he thought Canada could be helpful. He said he understands the U.S. position is against sending more troops and that Canada shares this position. But he also says that given the deteriorating situation there, our shared position is becoming unsustainable.

-- (S) Iranian Ambassador: In private the Ambassador thanked the PM for Canada's rejection of hostage-taker Ahmad Azizi as Iran's Ambassador.

13. (C) On his approach to U.S.-Canadian relations, the PM discussed Canada's conflicting views towards the U.S., noting that the Ambassador "will find that we want to be close to the U.S., we just can't say it publicly."

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WILKINS